

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0336

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA TO HOLD PLENARY MEETINGS
ON LUSAKA

REF: USUN 134

1. UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/9F (1977), IT WILL HOLD A SERIES
OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL IN LUSAKA FROM MARCH 20-25.
ACCORDING TO UN PRESS RELEASE NAM/358, THE COUNCIL WILL SEND
"MISSIONS" OF CONSULTATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FRONTLINE
STATES AND CERTAIN OTHER AFRICAN STATES" IMMEDIATELY PRIOR
TO THE MEETINGS IN LUSAKA. AUSTRALIAN MISSION, WHICH IS
MEMBER OF COUNCIL, INFORMS US THAT "OTHER AFRICAN STATES"
CONSIST OF ALGERIA, GABON, AND NIGERIA.

2. PRESS RELEASE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA HAS
RECOMMENDED TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM THAT SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NAMIBIA TAKE PLACE LATE IN
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APRIL. AS REPORTED REFTEL, UN COMMISSIONER AHTISAARI HAD
PREVIOUSLY INFORMED US THAT SPECIAL SESSION HAD BEEN
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE:

QUOTE

THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, AT A CLOSED MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA SHOULD BE HELD IN LATE APRIL 1978.

THE ASSEMBLY HAD DECIDED, IN RESOLUTION 32/9 H OF 4 NOVEMBER 1977, TO KEEP THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW AND TO HOLD A SPECIAL SESSION ON THAT SUBJECT BEFORE THE THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, MISS GWENDOLINE KONIO (ZAMBIA), WAS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO IMMEDIATE CONSULTATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION, WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING THE DATES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION AND SETTING INTO MOTION THE MACHINERY NECESSARY TO PREPARE FOR SUCH A SESSION.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED TO HOLD A SERIES OF EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, FROM 20 TO 25 MARCH 1978, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/9 F OF 4 NOVEMBER 1977.

THE ASSEMBLY, IN THAT RESOLUTION, REQUESTED THE COUNCIL, IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE LEGAL ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR NAMIBIA, TO HOLD A SERIES OF PLENARY MEETINGS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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AFRICA IN 1978 AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL, AS AND WHEN REQUIRED FOR THE FURTHER PROPER DISCHARGE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

ON BOTH SUBJECTS, THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH WERE OUTLINED IN REPORTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

THE REPORT REGARDING THE EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN AFRICA IN 1978 STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA HAD AGREED TO SERVE AS HOST TO THE MEETINGS IN LUSAKA AND HAD PROPOSED THE DATES 20 TO 25 MARCH.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE COUNCIL SEND MISSIONS OF CONSULTATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES AND CERTAIN OTHER AFRICAN STATES IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE HOLDING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY MEETINGS IN LUSAKA.

AT THIS AFTERNOON'S MEETING, THE COUNCIL ALSO HEARD A REPORT BY CHERIF BACHIR DJIGO (SENEGAL), WHO REPRESENTED THE COUNCIL AT A MEETING OF THE WORLD PEACE ACADEMY AT MENTON, FRANCE, FROM 11 TO 14 JANUARY.

UNQUOTE

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